

Applicants: Lawrence A. Denny and Edward E. Patterson  
Title: **OILFIELD EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION  
METHOD AND APPARATUS**  
Serial No.: 10/634,061  
Filed: 10/26/2004  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 1950.022

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**In the claims:**

The following listing of claims supercedes and replaces all former versions in the patent application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An oilfield equipment identifying apparatus comprising:  
a computer loaded with an oilfield equipment database;  
means for inputting into the computer a unique identification code for each piece of oilfield equipment in ~~the~~a drill string to form a reference in the oilfield equipment database to each piece of oilfield equipment in the drill string; and  
a drilling monitoring device monitoring a drilling device driving the drill string and receiving input signals indicative of at least one of rotating and non-rotating usage of the drill string and outputting signals to the computer wherein the computer continuously and automatically monitors the cumulative rotating usage and non-rotating usage of each piece of oilfield equipment identified in the drill string.

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2. (Once Amended) An oilfield equipment identifying apparatus comprising:  
  
a computer loaded with an oilfield equipment database;  
  
means for inputting into the computer a unique identification code for  
  
each piece of oilfield equipment in ~~the~~a drill string to form a  
  
reference in the oilfield equipment database to each piece of  
  
oilfield equipment in the drill string; and  
  
means for monitoring a drilling device driving the drill string and  
  
outputting signals to the computer wherein the computer  
  
continuously and automatically monitors the cumulative rotating  
  
usage and non-rotating usage of each piece of oilfield equipment  
  
identified in the drill string.
  
3. (Cancelled) A fixed mount reader for reading unique identification codes  
stored in passive identification tags mounted to respective pieces of oilfield  
equipment in a drill string such that the pieces of oilfield equipment are identified by  
the passive identification tags, the drill string being supported by a drilling rig having  
a rig floor, the fixed mount reader comprising:

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an antenna positioned in close proximity to the drill string, the antenna tuned to read the unique identification codes stored in the passive identification tags when the passive identification tags are positioned adjacent to the antenna; and

a pipe-engaging portion engaging the respective pieces of oilfield equipment and maintaining the antenna a distance from the respective pieces of oilfield equipment while the antenna is reading the passive identification tags mounted on the respective pieces of oilfield equipment.